

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2256

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AO IT PINT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN VIEWS ON ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 95597 (B) STATE 91145 (C) STATE 84889

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSED INFORMATION PROVIDED REFTELS WITH MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE APRIL 20. RACHELE BELIEVES THAT BREAK BETWEEN SWAPO AND UNITA IS COMPLETE, THAT "MODERATE" MULATTO FACTION SEEMS LIKELY TO RETAIN LEADERSHIP AFTER NETO'S DEATH, AND THAT REPORTS OF VIOLENCE RESULTING FROM RACIAL TENSION IN LUANDA MAY BE EXAGGERATED. END SUMMARY.

2. ANGOLAN SECURITY CONCERNS: WHILE AGREEING WITH HISTORICAL
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ANALYSIS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SWAPO AND UNITA PROVIDED IN REFTEL C, RACHELE SAID THAT BREAK BETWEEN TWO ORGANIZATIONS AFTER SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION WAS COMPLETE. SINCE THAT TIME, NETO GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ONLY TRAINED AND SUPPLIED SWAPO FORCES BUT HAS ALSO DEPLOYED THEM WITH ANGOLAN AND CUBAN TROOPS AGAINST UNITA. OVER LAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS, SWAPO LEADERSHIP CHANGES, UNDERTAKEN

TO GET RID OF SOUTH AFRICAN "INFILTRATORS," HAVE HAD EFFECT OF ELIMINATING ANY POTENTIALLY PRO-UNITA ELEMENTS. FOR THESE REASONS, ITALIANS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SWAPO-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO UNITA.

3. ANGOLA, AFTER NETO: RACHELE AGREED WITH ANALYSIS PROVIDED REFTEL A REGARDING BALANCE OF FORCES IN ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. WHILE POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS AMONG MODERATES ARE KNOWN, IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHO WILL EMERGE TO LEAD RADICAL BLACK FACTION. NETO, INsofar AS HE HAS BEEN WILLING TO CONTEMPLATE IDEA OF ANGOLA WITHOUT HIMSELF, HAS SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT HE FAVORS LUCIO LARA TO SUCCEED HIM. ITALIANS THINK THAT MULATTO GROUP IS LIKELY TO MAINTAIN POWER AFTER NETO'S PASSING AND POINT OUT THAT MAJORITY OF MILITARY OFFICERS, EVEN THOSE WHO ARE BLACK, ARE IN MODERATE FACTION.

4. AS TO ACCOUNT IN REF B OF RACIAL VIOLENCE IN LUANDA, RACHELE WAS SURPRISED AND SKEPTICAL ABOUT REPORT AND SAID THAT ITALIANS ARE UNAWARE OF SUCH INCIDENTS.

5. IN CONCLUSION, RACHELE EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR REPORTS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING EXCHANGE ON ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS. GARDNER

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